

# ANGELINA JOLIE: BEHIND THE LENS

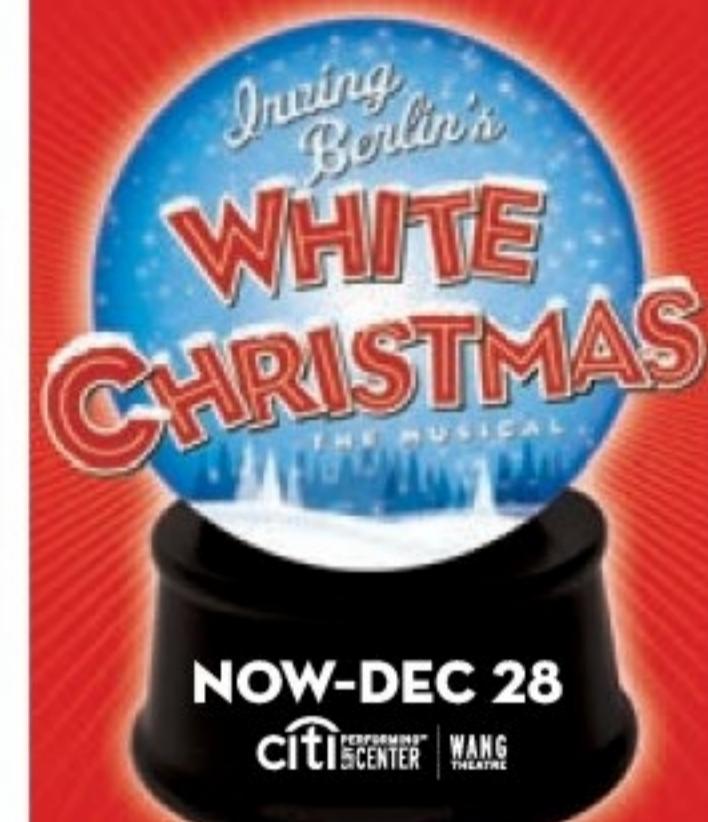
SHE SHARES WHY THE WORLD NEEDS HER FILM. PAGE 10



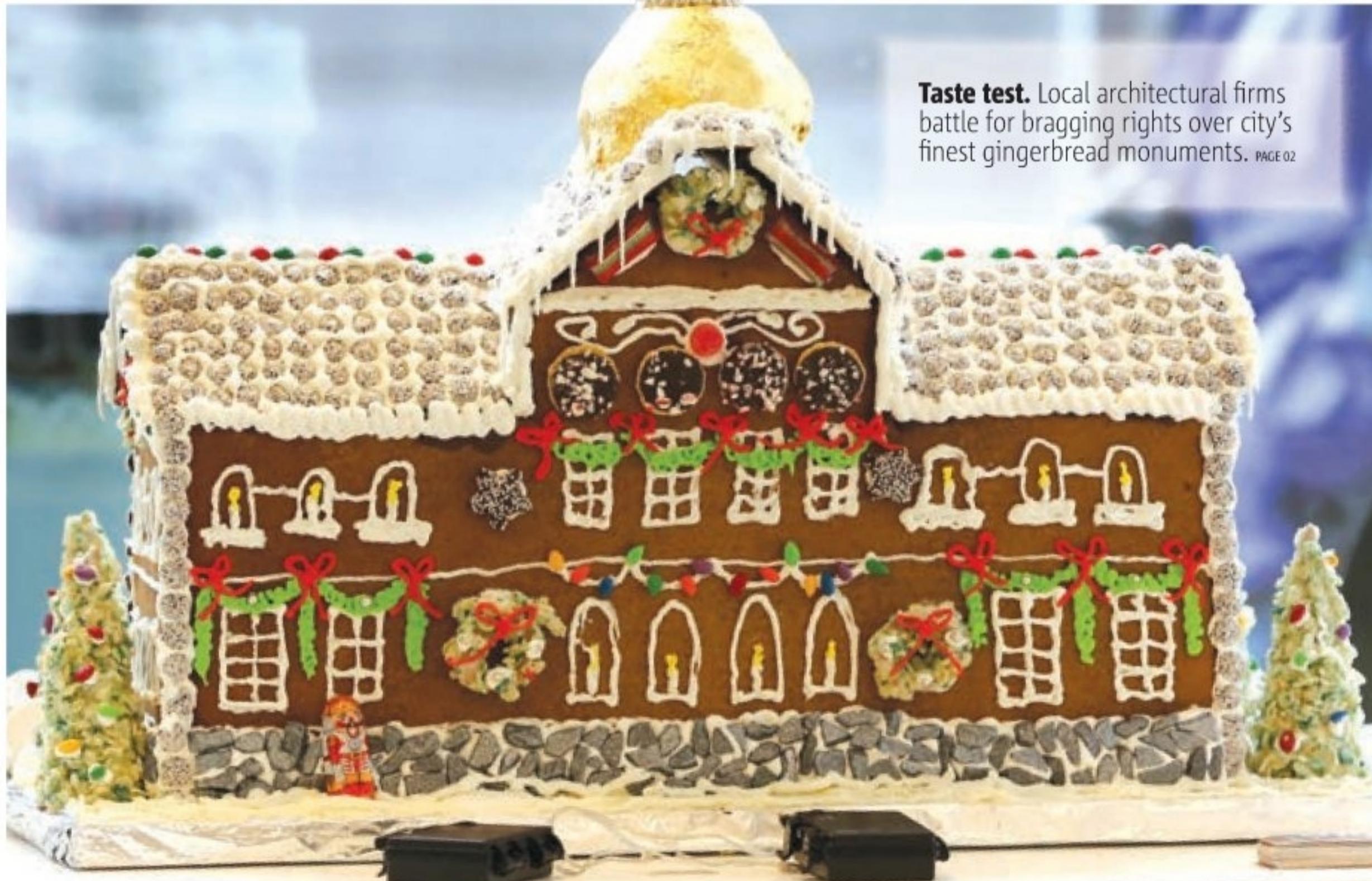
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**Taste test.** Local architectural firms battle for bragging rights over city's finest gingerbread monuments. PAGE 02

**Aaron Hernandez trial may take months**

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**The world's biggest New Year's Eve parties**

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**The year's very best parenting moments**

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# Gingerbread war

The Gingerbread Design competition on view at the Boston Society of Architects on Congress Street. Above, a replica of the Massachusetts State House. NIKOLAIUS CZARNECKI, METRO

**Warriors at top spot in NBA rankings**

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## NEWS

Top 3

### The best of Metro.us

1 Discreet guide to selling unwanted Christmas gifts

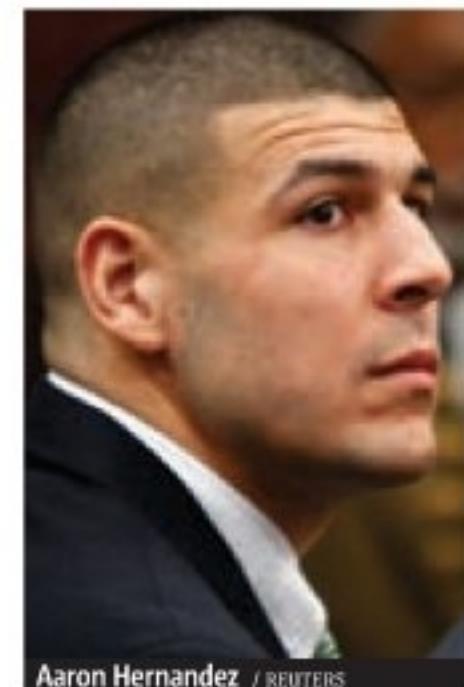
2 Joe Cocker dies

3 VIDEO: Justin Timberlake surprises fans with special performance



On the go

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Aaron Hernandez / REUTERS

**Boston.** Some delicious designs are on display at the BSA.

They are tasks in tedium, exercises in OCD, bits of eatable holiday humdrum.

Yes, the State House's 23-carat gold leaf dome is edible. Yes, those are stained sugar glass windows in the Old North Church.

Architects, after all, love detail. Hence, this year's iteration of the Boston Society of Architects (BSA) gingerbread house competition, which has been on public display at 290 Congress St. for the past two weeks.

Lexington's Connor Architecture, for instance, took 40 hours to build a miniature State House. Bits of Chocolate

masonry are a sweet stand-in for the stone steps of the real thing. Then there's the structure's iconic golden dome.

"We are insane enough to source it from a pastry chef in New York," said Charlotte Connor. "It took us by surprise, how fun it was and how fierce the competition was."

She added, "Architects can be a little crazy."

STV Group Inc., known locally for transportation projects, recreated the Longfellow Bridge, also known as "salt and pepper shaker bridge" because of the shape of its towers. Most of the firm's 92-strong Boston office have worked on a design build project for the real thing, which connects Kendall Square and Beacon Hill, across the Charles River.

The group initially struggled to make everything edible, but



Visit [Metro.us](#) to see more pictures of the constructed confections.

#### Quoted

**"One of the challenges was discovering how to make it small enough to meet the design criteria, yet big enough to have it be detailed."**

Kristine Gorman, STV

ultimately decided, "Anything is edible if you set your mind to it."

The end result features rice crispy treats for the piers and towers, gingerbread and frosting for the granite façade and a chocolate syrup and Oreo crumb roadway.

Finegold Alexander + Associates, based in the North End and known for its work on historic buildings recreated the Old North Church.

The firm, which won the competition last year with its candied rendering of the Hatch Shell, put a Necco finish on the roof, used stained sugar glass for the window and created the steeple from gingerbread, fondant and a deconstructed ice cream cone for the spire.

A team of four spent three nights making the piece.

"We couldn't leave out

some Italian inspirations so the fence and the light posts are made with spaghetti," said Josephine Penta, an architect with the firm.

Competitors seek donations from fans of their work, and The team with the most donations is declared the winner, and proceeds benefit the Community Design Resource Center, which provides pro bono design and technical assistance for nonprofits and projects for underserved communities in greater Boston.

At press time, a bidding war was said to be on between Finegold Alexander's Old North Church and Connor Architecture's State House, according to Boston Society of Architects.

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The Gingerbread Design competition on view at the Boston Society of Architects on Congress Street. A replica of East Boston is just one of the pieces on display. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

# Architects battle to build edible gingerbread Boston

## Court. Hernandez murder trial could take months

The murder trial of former Patriots star Aaron Hernandez could last between six and 10 weeks, prosecutors said Monday.

Hernandez, who has already pleaded not guilty to the June 2013 slaying of Odin Lloyd, was back in Bristol County Superior Court for a pretrial hearing on Monday. Jury selection is slated to start Jan. 9.

Earlier this month, a judge

ruled that the jury will not hear of the last text messages that Lloyd sent to his sister, or details of a dual murder with which Hernandez is also charged, Reuters reported.

Prosecutors had argued Lloyd's last text messages showed he believed he was in danger as he rode in a car with New England Patriots' tight end Hernandez after being summoned to the ball players's house late one night

in June 2013. Prosecutors also had planned to argue at the trial that Hernandez had told Lloyd about a prior shooting incident, Reuters reported.

Hernandez was one of the top tight ends in the National Football League.

He had a \$41 million contract when he was arrested last year and charged with murdering Lloyd in an industrial park near North Attleborough, Massachusetts.

#### By the numbers

# \$41M

Hernandez's contract

Hernandez is also charged with the 2012 slayings of two men outside a Boston night-club following a dispute over a spilled drink. He has pleaded not guilty to those crimes as well. METRO AND REUTERS

# Bus driver iced after swinging at unruly passenger

**MBTA.** A Boston bus driver is suspended after knocking down unruly passenger.

For the second time in less than a month, an MBTA operator got into a physical fight with an unruly passenger. This time, the driver was suspended after striking a man with a chock block.

Transit police are investigating a fight that allegedly took place Saturday afternoon on a Route 1 bus as it traveled on Massachusetts Avenue near Washington Street. According to T officials, an argument broke out between a female driver and a male passenger.

On video captured by a passenger and provided to a local Boston television station, the man is seen spitting on the driver as he exited the bus. That's when the driver appears to stop the bus and follow him outside onto the sidewalk. As the argument escalates, the driver is seen swinging an object at the man, knocking him down to the ground.

It was unclear whether ei-



An MBTA bus was the scene of the confrontation, a screenshot of which is shown in the inset. / WBZ SCREENSHOT

ther party will face charges. Neither people were identified, though MBTA Spokesman Joe Pesaturo said the 40-year-old driver has worked for the MBTA for nearly a decade.

The man left the scene without requesting medical attention, Pesaturo said. It was unclear what prompted the man to spit on the driver. Police were not called to the scene.

Earlier this month, a female MBTA trolley driver punched a pregnant woman who spat on her during a fare dispute. The driver involved in that incident did not face disciplinary action,

though transit police spoke out on her behalf saying that passenger assaults on operators is a serious problem in the transit agency.

When asked why the driver in Saturday's incident was suspended and the trolley driver was not, Pesaturo said they were "different cases. Different set of circumstances."

The bus drivers' union did not immediately return a request for comment.

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## Crime

### Suspected Mass. bank robber arrested in Maine

A Massachusetts man wanted in connection with a pair of bank robberies in Lowell was captured in Maine on Saturday.

Police arrested Michael Vangpa, 25, in South Portland. Vangpa is accused of robbing a Bank of America on Dec. 13, and a TD Bank on Dec. 14. In both instances he fled with undisclosed amounts of cash.

He is expected to be arraigned in Maine on a fugitive from justice charge. It is unclear when he will be returned to Massachusetts. **METRO**

### Dorchester. Police hunt would-be shooter in mask

Boston police say no arrests have been made yet in the case of a masked man pointing a gun at an officer in Dorchester on Sunday night.

Officer James Kenneally, a spokesman for the Boston Police Department, would not say whether they were still searching for a suspect, or whether they had any good leads, but would only say "no arrests have been made in the incident."

Kenneally said the officer approached the man around 11 p.m. outside the Lee Elementary School. The man attempted to flee, then stopped and pointed a gun at the officer. He did not fire any shots.

The officer fired an undis-



Boston Police cruiser.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

closed amount of shots, but police don't believe the man was hit. His gun was recovered nearby.

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# Candle-loving man steals more than 30

**Wrentham.** Police are seeking a man who allegedly stole Yankee Candles.



Candle thief suspect.

WRENTHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Fear not, your apple spice, cranberry-chutney and honey dew melon-scented wares appear to be safe; police have identified the great Yankee Candle bandit of Wrentham.

Police issued a community alert over the weekend after a man described as wearing a black coat with a fur-trimmed hoodie allegedly stole 30 Yankee Candles from the Cracker Barrel Restaurant Shop during the pre-Christmas shopping crush Saturday evening at Wrentham Village Premium Outlets. The man, whom police have not yet named, ran away after allegedly pilfering dozens of the

perfumed party gifts.

It apparently didn't take long for police to figure out who the suspect was. Shortly before midnight Sunday the department had identified him. However, it was unclear if he had been arrested or charged or when he will be arraigned. And the motive for his crime. Was it a crime of

passion? Opportunity? Or was he just looking to mask an unfortunate household odor?

In a statement, Wrentham police said: "This is another case where good honest people stepped up and helped other good honest people by identifying a guy who ultimately is taking money right out of their pockets."

"Hats off to you good guys. Now we'll seek a warrant for his arrest and bring him back to Wrentham to face the judge," the statement said.

Yankee Candle declined to comment for this story, saying through a spokeswoman the company does not comment on thefts. The company also declined to identify its best selling fragrances of the season.



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## That's not a drive-through window

Crews worked on Monday afternoon to extract a car from the exterior of a Dunkin' Donuts on Somerville Avenue in Union Square. Two passengers were taken to the hospital with minor injuries. The crash happened around noon. It was unclear what caused the Toyota Corolla to veer into the building. The business will close for several days for repairs. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

### Holidays

#### Bing Bummer: No White Christmas

Temperatures are expected to reach as high as 60 degrees on Christmas Day, knocking out any chance of a white Christmas, the National

Weather Service said.

The week leading up to the holiday will be rainy, with showers and temperatures rising into the upper 40s by Tuesday afternoon.

Christmas Eve downpours could be heavy enough to

cause flooding in poorly drained areas of the city, the weather service said. Christmas itself will be mostly dry, overcast and windy. The sun will return by Friday, with temperatures lingering in the upper 40s. GLOBE

# LAST CHANCE DASH

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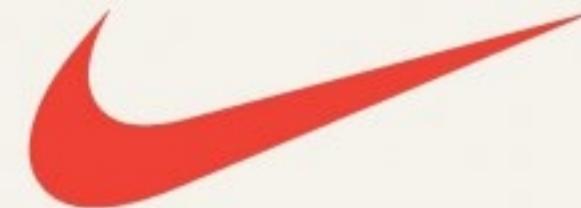
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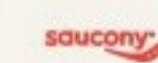
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# Chasing away the holiday blues



Don't sit home alone for the holidays. Make new traditions. / REUTERS

**Traditions.** Fighting loneliness is the top priority.

The year's end may bring holiday cheer for many, but it can cause sadness and unhealthy behavior in others.

"People tend to picture the holidays as being perfect, like a Norman Rockwell painting," says Dr. Stephen Geisler, a psychiatrist at Zucker Hillside Hospital in Queens. The problem comes when people expect reality to reach that ideal.

One common holiday-related problem is loneliness. "It's usually a time of year that emphasizes family," says Dr. Michael Henry, a psychiatrist based at Massachusetts General Hospital. "There are some people estranged from their families, or who have lost family members or given current economic circumstances, they are unable to travel to see their families."

There are ways to feel less alone.

"The challenge is to create new traditions," Geisler advises. "If your family is out of town, make plans to spend

## Debunked

### Suicide myth

It's a myth that the suicide rate goes up during the holiday season.

Since 1999, the Annenberg Center at the University of Pennsylvania has issued a study on newspaper stories perpetuating the myth. They say that during the 2013 holi-

day season, 70 percent of the stories incorrectly stated that suicide rates rose at the end of the year. In truth, the period between November and January usually has one of the lowest suicide rates of the year, according to the CDC.

The months between April and August tend to have the highest suicide rates.

## Quote

**"The challenge is to create new traditions. ... Volunteer at a soup kitchen."**

Geisler

include excessive eating and alcohol abuse, something to keep in mind as you make plans for New Year's Eve.

The approach of a new year can also cause people to reflect on the failures of the previous 12 months.

"The problem people have with New Year's is often they did not keep their resolutions," Geisler said. "They did not lose that 20 pounds."

Make realistic resolutions involving reachable goals, said Geisler. He also encourages people to pace themselves. "You can't do it all," said Geisler.

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Timothy Sykes is a millionaire stock trader and entrepreneur.



# 3 New Year's resolutions I'm making

This was my most successful year as a stock trader and teacher, but I'm always striving to be better. Here are my three New Year's resolutions for 2015:

## Resolution No. 1: Be healthier

In the past 12 months, my business reached new heights, I started a new serious relationship and the press started hounding me daily after my second millionaire student went viral on Fox and CNN. While all of that was going on, I was still determined to indulge in my passion for exotic

travel. Through all of this, my health declined, as I didn't make enough time for cardio or strength training. Given that I gained nearly 50 pounds in the past year, I joke around that I'm a less-funny Jonah Hill, but I must take my health much more seriously in 2015, as no amount of personal and business success means much if I'm not around to enjoy it all.

## Resolution No. 2: Give back

In the past, I've donated my time and money to worthy causes, but this past year I

Props to Sony for placing the safety and well-being of our citizens ahead of everything else in the face of hacker threats over "The Interview." We'll watch it On Demand later!



"Thursday Night Football Saturday Edition": C'mon, NFL. You really can't come up with a better name than that?

just didn't make the time. But I'm already making up for it. In the past week, I sponsored a Make-A-Wish Foundation wish for a young basketball fan and surprised him with season tickets. I also dressed up as Hanukkah Harry to deliver toys and presents to more than 100 kids at my local Boys & Girls Club. It's a good start, but I must be more diligent in helping those less fortunate.

## Resolution No. 3: Cherish my friends

Besides gaining too much weight and ignoring my community, I



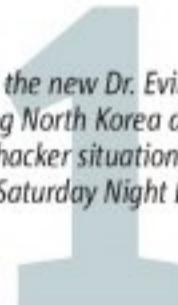
For exclusive commentary, visit [Metro.us/blogs](http://Metro.us/blogs).

didn't place enough importance on my friendships with several of my best friends. As I've gotten older, it's become tougher to keep up with my friends. In 2015, this will change, as I truly miss them.

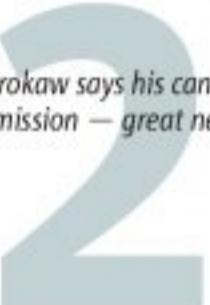
I've had a ton of success in the past year, but I've done a poor job at managing my time, health and several important relationships. I know exactly what I must do in the new year. Do you? Make a list and get to it!

### What Sykes likes this week

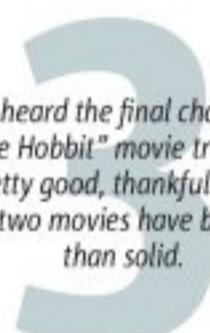
I loved the new Dr. Evil video mocking North Korea and the entire hacker situation. Good job, "Saturday Night Live"!



Tom Brokaw says his cancer is in remission — great news!



I've heard the final chapter in "The Hobbit" movie trilogy is pretty good, thankfully. The past two movies have been less than solid.



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## 1 Mel B's recent hospitalization? An accidental overdose.

Last week, former Spice Girl Mel B (real name Melanie Brown) missed a taping of the British version of "X Factor" after heading to the hospital because of stomach pains. But now it turns out that was a bit of a fib. A source tell Radar Online that Brown "was hospitalized because she mixed tranquilizers, including Xanax, with alcohol. It was absolutely accidental and not intentional. She wasn't suicidal, but the pressure of

being back in London brought a lot of unresolved issues to the surface concerning being estranged from her mother, Andrea, and the rest of her family." Dang, source, ease up with the oversharing. You could've just left it at "not intentional." Brown has reportedly been holed up in a London hotel with her daughters since leaving the hospital and has been cleared by doctors to return to the U.S.



GETTY IMAGES

## Surprise 'Hannibal' cast shake-up is surprising



Goodbye, Michael Pitt's mangled face. Hello, Joe Anderson's.

NBC, NBCU PHOTO BANK

Michael Pitt is evidently all done with "Hannibal" and won't be returning for the show's third season, but that doesn't mark the end of his character, meat-packing magnate Mason Verger. Pitt will be replaced by "Across the Universe" star Joe Anderson, and hopefully fans won't notice the difference. I mean, he ended Season 2 doing some pretty grisly things to his own face, meaning lots of stomach-turning prosthetics, so it just might work. Sources say Pitt made the decision to leave the show, probably seeing his character's intense facial mutilation as the perfect opportunity to do so.

Oh, and Anderson posted a pretty alarming photo of

himself in full Verger makeup on the character's Instagram

account, and now we kind of see Pitt's point.

Daily video



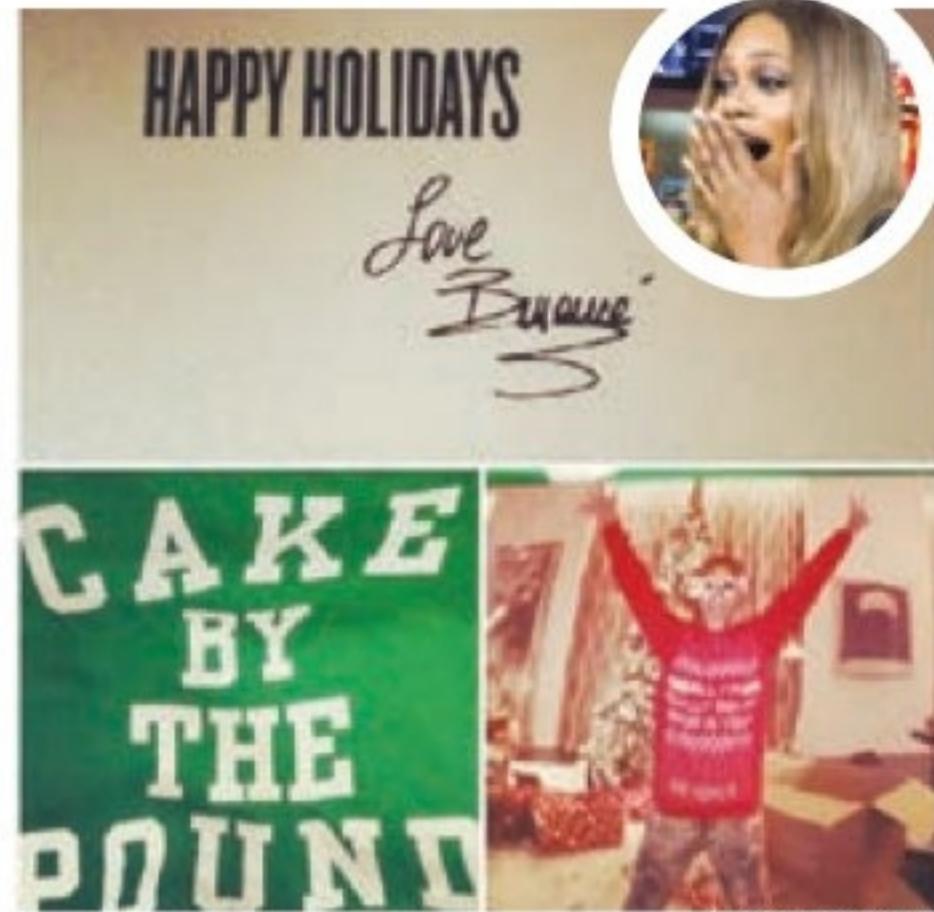
VIMEO, ITV PRESS CENTRE

### Watch George Clooney on 'Downton Abbey'

Remember all that talk about George Clooney making an appearance on "Downton Abbey"? Well, here it is. Clooney gets in on the action for the series' Christmas comedy bit made for the ITV network's annual charity drive, featuring the hit British show getting

the "It's a Wonderful Life" treatment as Lord Grantham (Hugh Bonneville) frets about how he's ruined the family finances. "Absolutely Fabulous" star Joanna Lumley plays his guardian angel, and Clooney pops up as George Oceans Gravity, Marquess of Hollywood, the PDA-happy guy Cora (Elizabeth McGovern) ended up with since Lord Grantham had never been born. Let's just say he might've been on to something.

## 2 Laverne Cox flips out over Beyoncé Christmas card



INSTAGRAM, LAVERNECOX

"Orange Is the New Black" star Laverne Cox totally wins the relatability award this year for her perfectly measured and understandable reaction to receiving a Christmas card from Beyoncé. I mean, it's a Christmas card from Beyoncé. Cox posted a shot of the signature to Instagram, explaining, "So when I opened this holiday card a few days ago and read 'Love Beyoncé,' I literally fell to the

floor. I was on the floor of my apartment. I have witnesses." Don't worry, we believe you.

She also writes, "Thanks Bey for the gift" and includes an image of a sweatshirt emblazoned with "Cake by the Pound." It's unclear whether the item is said gift — I mean, it would make sense, right? — but the important thing is, I would like to know more about this cake-by-the-pound policy. Where do I sign up?

## 3 'Anger Management' apparently only gets 100 episodes



Here's post-'Anger Management' Sheen portraying pre-'Anger Management' Sheen from "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" in a cameo on "The Goldbergs." / ABC VIA GETTY IMAGES

Last night's "Anger Management" finale, it turns out, was the series finale. Charlie Sheen's post-"Two and a Half Men" project is all done, as cast and crew were informed late last week by FX and Lionsgate that the show would not be renewed. "I am beyond proud of what we accomplished over the course of 100 episodes," Sheen says in a statement. "We created something uniquely special with some of the most talented individuals I have ever had the privilege to work with. My sincere thanks to all for their unwavering love and support. Here's to the next chapter."

The network brass informed the team Friday, ahead of Monday's 100th episode debut, which certainly put a damper on the celebrations. The series was kicked off in an unusual manner, with Sheen orchestrating a deal with the network where he made 10 ep-

isodes and if they liked them, they had to order a minimum of 90 more, instantly triggering a syndication deal and resulting in an often draining production schedule for those involved. Up next for Sheen? Reprising his "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" character for a cameo on "The Goldbergs."



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ANGELINA JOLIE  
GETTY IMAGES

# Angelina Jolie goes to war

**Interview.** The actress didn't want "Unbroken," the second film she's directed, to be sentimental.

The last movie Angelina Jolie directed, "The Land of Milk and Honey," was a tough, grueling, brutal look at the Bosnian war. Her latest, "Unbroken," is a tough, grueling, brutal look at the life of Louie Zamperini (played by Jack O'Connell), an Olympian whose service in WWII led him to spend 47 days on a life raft, then another two-and-a-half years in Japanese POW camps. But Jolie insists that her latest, based on Laura

Hillenbrand's best-seller, is more of a crowd-pleaser.

## Her motivation

"I was halfway through [Hillenbrand's] book and I found myself inspired and on fire. I realized if this was happening to me and I knew it had had that effect on so many others, then this was what we needed to put forward into this world at this time."

## The first cut

"It was three-and-a-half hours. And what was dangerous about it was I liked it. ... In the end there were about four or five scenes that didn't make it. Everything else was trimmed. ... You have to listen to the audience and what they're feeling. If they're saying, 'I like that scene but



Angelina Jolie directed "Unbroken," the tale of Olympian-turned-POW Louie Zamperini (Jack O'Connell, far right). / UNIVERSAL PICTURES

the raft stuff feels too long,' you've got to listen."

## Stretching herself

"If you'd asked me a few years ago, 'What kind of film do you want to make?' I would never have assumed I'd make a film that included shark attacks and plane crashes. I would never have thought of myself as able to handle that kind of cinematic filmmaking. But I cared about the story so much I had to learn how to do them."

## A little help from her friends

### Joel and Ethan Coen's advice

"The Coen brothers [who helped co-write] told me something that helped. They said when you put a book down, you have a certain feeling and a certain understanding. That's what [the audience] needs to feel when they walk out of the theater. That's your job. If you literally put this book on film, you won't make a good movie. You won't be

of service to anyone. ... This film could have easily gone sentimental. It could be too earnest. We had to keep it sharp and keep it open and keep it entertaining for an audience. [The Coen brothers] were great with personalities and with structure."

**MATT PRIGGE**  
@mattprigge  
matt.prigge@metro.us

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12/6 Killington  
12/12-14 Sunday River  
12/13 Sunday River  
12/20 Loon  
12/21 Killington  
12/27 Jay Peak  
12/28 Sunday River  
12/30 Okemo\*

### JANUARY

1/3 Stowe  
1/4 Killington  
1/7 Sunday River\*

1/10 Jay Peak  
1/11 Cannon  
1/16-19 Sugarloaf

1/17 Sunday River  
1/18 Killington  
1/19 Loon\*

1/23-25 Sunday River  
1/24 Jay Peak  
1/25 Sugarbush

1/30 Sunday River\*

1/30-2/1 Jay Peak  
1/31 Stowe

### FEBRUARY

2/1 Loon  
2/4 Cannon\*

2/7 Jay Peak

2/8 Sunday River  
2/13 Killington\*

2/13-16 Montreal

2/14 Stowe

2/15 Jay Peak

2/16 Sunday River\*

2/19 Okemo\*

2/20-22 Sugarloaf

2/21 Jay Peak

2/22 Killington

2/25 Wildcat\*

2/27-3/1 Sunday River

2/28 Sunday River

### MARCH

3/1 Okemo

3/4 Killington\*

3/6-8 Sugarloaf

3/7 Sunday River

3/8 Jay Peak

3/13 Cannon\*

3/13-15 Orford

3/14 Stowe

3/15 Wildcat

3/17 Loon\*

3/20-22 Sunday River

3/21 Jay Peak

3/22 Sugarbush

3/25 Killington\*

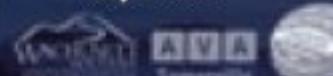
3/28 Sunday River

3/29 Loon

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Where's the most festive place to be when the clock strikes midnight on Dec. 31? We scoured the world for the best NYE celebrations, from the beaches of Rio de Janeiro to the Las Vegas Strip.

## London

Londoners ring in the New Year to the chiming of Big Ben at midnight. More than 250,000 people crowd the banks of the Thames and its numerous bridges to see a spectacular light show and fireworks display. On New Year's Day the streets of central London welcome a parade.



## 3 Best parenting moments of 2014

These stories will inspire you. **EMILY LAURENCE**

### Parents release new birth announcement for transgender teen

For a teen, telling your parents you're transitioning genders can be terrifying. And for parents, it can be confusing and even sad. But two parents showed their support in a huge way — by putting a new "birth" announcement in their local paper:



TWITTER, @FROSTYAGNES

would now like to present, our wonderful son — Kai Bogert. Loving you is the easiest thing in the world. Tidy your room."

Their example shows how being a parent means loving your child through everything, no matter what.

"In 1995 we announced the arrival of our sprocket, Elizabeth Anne, as a daughter. He informs us that we were mistaken. Oops! Our bad. We



### Dad goes above and beyond when packing lunch, every day

Packing kids' school lunches is an annoying chore for many

### New York City

It may not be for everyone, but there's no denying that New Year's Eve in New York City has an atmosphere few other cities can rival. Most famous, of course, is the gathering of a million people in Times Square to watch a 12-foot-wide crystal ball weighing nearly 12,000 pounds drop atop One Times Square. For a slightly less chaotic experience, book a reservation at one of the bars or restaurants overlooking Times Square. Or consider a nighttime boat ride on New York Harbor, which offers the best views of the midnight fireworks display on Liberty Island.



### Rio de Janeiro

Rio's Copacabana Beach hosts the world's largest and arguably wildest New Year's Eve party, with more than 2 million people cramming onto the

2.5-mile stretch of sand. Locals dress in white — believed to bring good luck — and toss flowers into the ocean as gift to Yemanja, goddess of the seas. The celebration includes music, dance and fireworks.

### Edinburgh

"Hogmanay" translates to "last day of the year," but the annual festivities in Edinburgh actually span three days, starting Dec. 30 with a torchlight procession through the city. New Year's Eve is all about street parties and outdoor concerts. At midnight, more than 4 tons of fireworks explode over Edinburgh Castle. New Year's Day brings dog sledding, brave souls jumping into the waters of the River Forth after the Loony Dook parade (a charity event), and Scot:Lands, a multi-music and arts festival.

### Las Vegas

More than 300,000 revelers descend on this party capital for the big night, when the Las Vegas Strip becomes car-free and transforms into a giant street party with live bands, pyrotechnic displays and laser shows. The city also hosts a mind-boggling number of concerts, shows and parties in clubs, hotels and casinos. Come midnight, fireworks are launched from seven rooftops along the Strip.

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Family

### Walt Disney World

The theme park stays open until 1 a.m., and it's packed with fun activities all day long. Leading up to the midnight fireworks show, there are Cirque du Soleil performances, dance parties, live entertainers and confetti explosions to keep visitors of all ages entertained. Disney's Magical Kingdom hosts the Jingle Jungle Parade, while Epcot Center puts on an impressive lights and laser show just before midnight.



### Mom saves son from fire

When 23-year-old mother Christina Simoes and her 18-month-old son were trapped on the third floor of their burning apartment building, she knew the only way out for them was through the window.

Simoes cradled her son in her arms and jumped out the window, landing on her back. Her only instinct was to protect her son, no matter what it meant for her.

Due to the fall, Simoes is suffering from severe nerve damage and might never walk again; after the accident, she lost all the feeling in her legs. She's currently in recovery, however, and her son suffered no injuries.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

# 'Monsters' is not so necessary, but still fun

**Review.** SpeakEasy's latest is ambitious, but doesn't quite work as a whole.

"Necessary Monsters" is a strange play rife with disturbed characters whose lives are connected through a series of nonlinear vignettes.

SpeakEasy Stage Company's overwrought production of local playwright/actor John Kuntz's latest work is a dizzying exercise in overstimulation. The actors are in a cage with a multitude of props and video technology only as effective as your proximity to them.

In this claustrophobic environment, the characters search for relief from aching loneliness. Sex, drugs, alcohol, physical and emotional abuse and serial killing prove to be no match for the demons they



If you go

## 'Necessary Monsters'

Through Jan. 3  
BCA Calderwood Pavilion  
527 Tremont St.  
\$25 to \$61  
617-933-8600  
[www.SpeakEasyStage.com](http://www.SpeakEasyStage.com)

seek to quell.

The lack of clarity in the flimsy storyline makes it hard to commit to little more than perverse curiosity, which takes away from the strong work of this talented ensemble.

Several of the characters are so good they each could be the

subject of a full-length story. Tommy Derrah's turn (in drag) as a booze-swilling society matron ends up being a showcase for some masterful acting, and Evelyn Howe's children's television performer, who becomes a foul-mouthed tyrant when the camera is off, also has potential.

The sum of the whole is not greater than the parts, however, and "Necessary Monsters" suffers from its own shortcomings. Still, it might be fun to see again just to try to figure it out.

NICK DUSSAULT  
[letters@metro.us](mailto:letters@metro.us)

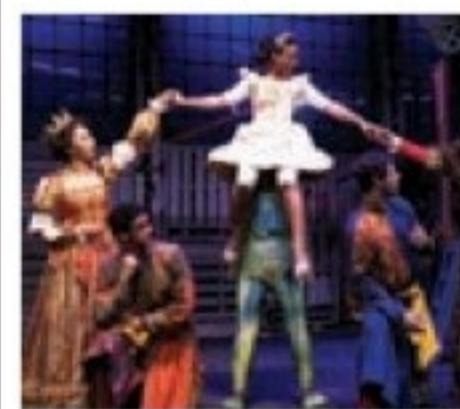


CRAIG BAILEY, PERSPECTIVE PHOTO

## THEATER

### 'The Light Princess'

Through Jan. 4  
Loeb Drama Center  
64 Brattle St., Cambridge  
\$15, 617-547-8300  
[www.americanrepertorytheater.org](http://www.americanrepertorytheater.org)  
This children's play, a popular draw last year, returns to the Loeb for another run. Based on a story by 19th century Scottish fantasy master George MacDonald, it tells of a princess who's lost her tie to gravity — both the physical and emotional types — due to a witch's curse. If the curse isn't lifted by her 16th birthday, she'll lose her kingdom forever.



EVGENIA ELISEEVA

Jewishness during that most gentle of holidays. Fill up on such dishes as vegetable lo mein, orange beef and chicken kung pao while enjoying stand-up sets by Harrison Greenbaum, Josh Gondelman, Adrienne Tolsch and Cory Kahaney.

## ART

### Sylvia Plimack Mangold and Robert Ryman

Through Jan. 24  
Barbara Krakow Gallery  
10 Newbury St.  
Free, 617-262-4490  
[www.barbarakrakowgallery.com](http://www.barbarakrakowgallery.com)

You can't get much more minimal than many of these artists' images, which look at first like blank white spaces. One by Ryman is actually entitled "Painting without Paint." Others have more noticeable, but still subtle elements.

## MUSIC

### The Christmas Revels

Through Sunday  
Sanders Theater  
45 Quincy St., Cambridge  
\$10-\$40, 617-496-2222  
[www.boxoffice.harvard.edu](http://www.boxoffice.harvard.edu)  
Revels holds events throughout the year, but its winter solstice show remains the most iconic. This year they've chosen Victorian England as their theme. Drawing inspiration from the era's music hall shows, it includes dances, carols, storytelling and comedy. **MATTHEW DINARO**

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## Horoscope

**♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20.** Make a point to network and keep in touch with important people. Offer assistance to a close friend or relative. A revealing secret will give you insight that will help you make a big decision.

**♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18.** You'll feel apprehensive about getting together with old friends. Stop having regrets about your past. People love you for who you are. Stand tall and be proud.

**♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20.** Not everything will go according to plan. You will have to take things as they come. If you don't overreact to minor matters, you will avoid retaliation.

**♈ Aries | March 21-April 20.** You will find the perfect gift for someone special. Don't waste time asking for other people's opinions. Rely on your own judgment for the most success and satisfaction.

**♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21.** Don't worry if you can't complete your whole shopping list. It's not about how much you give or spend, it's about the love and sincerity that you offer.

**♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20.** A blossoming partnership will bring you happiness. You will be greatly appreciated if you use your unique talents to make family gatherings a big hit.

**♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22.** You will leave a lasting impression if you devote your time to someone elderly or lonely. Before you travel, finish your chores so you will not have to deal with such matters when you return.

**♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22.** Generosity at this time of year is not about spending money. You will grab attention if you contribute your ideas, time and effort to a cause you believe in.

**♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** All the hustle and bustle will try your patience. Short tempers can lead to hurtful arguments, so it's wise to go off by yourself, where you can reflect.

**♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22.** Your charisma and charm will make you the center of attention. Host a family party or neighborhood gathering. You have the ability to make everyone feel important and at ease.

**♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21.** Now is a great time to reconnect with people you don't see often. Get out and socialize as much as you can, but take care not to overindulge.

**♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21.** Family dynamics will become strained if you put demands on the ones you love. Sightseeing will take your mind off troublesome situations at home or work. **EUGENIA LAST**

## Best of 2014

*Through the holidays, Metro takes a look at the issues important to letter writers in 2014. Whether it was gun violence, domestic violence, world conflicts — or cyclists! — Metro readers had a lot to say. Here are some excerpts:*

## Immigration

There always has been and always will be immigration LAWS. And they are meant to be restrictive. All countries do this, to protect their own citizens/country from being

overrun. One must follow the LAWS or be thrown out. And please don't use that tired old statement about the illegals taking unwanted jobs. If that is true, how come we have so many unemployed people on welfare? Our country is becoming the land of poor peasants with a few extremely rich "lords and masters" controlling the masses as they see fit.

**MARIL GOSNIK (JULY 31)**

I want to urge that we do seek comprehensive reform on immigration and advocate for executive action if Congress will not comply. Since when did we

as Americans forget about the human dignity documented and undocumented people deserve? We cannot reject the thousands of women and children arriving at our border seeking amnesty.

**CHARLES HAJJAR (NOV. 21)**

Give 'em hell, Mr. President! He did what he had to do, since the Republican House was unwilling or unable to do anything. This whole sordid saga reinforces the old adage, "Those who can, do; those who can't, bitch" — which is what the Republicans will do for the rest of the year — and then some.

**RICHARD ZIEGENFUSS (NOV. 24)**

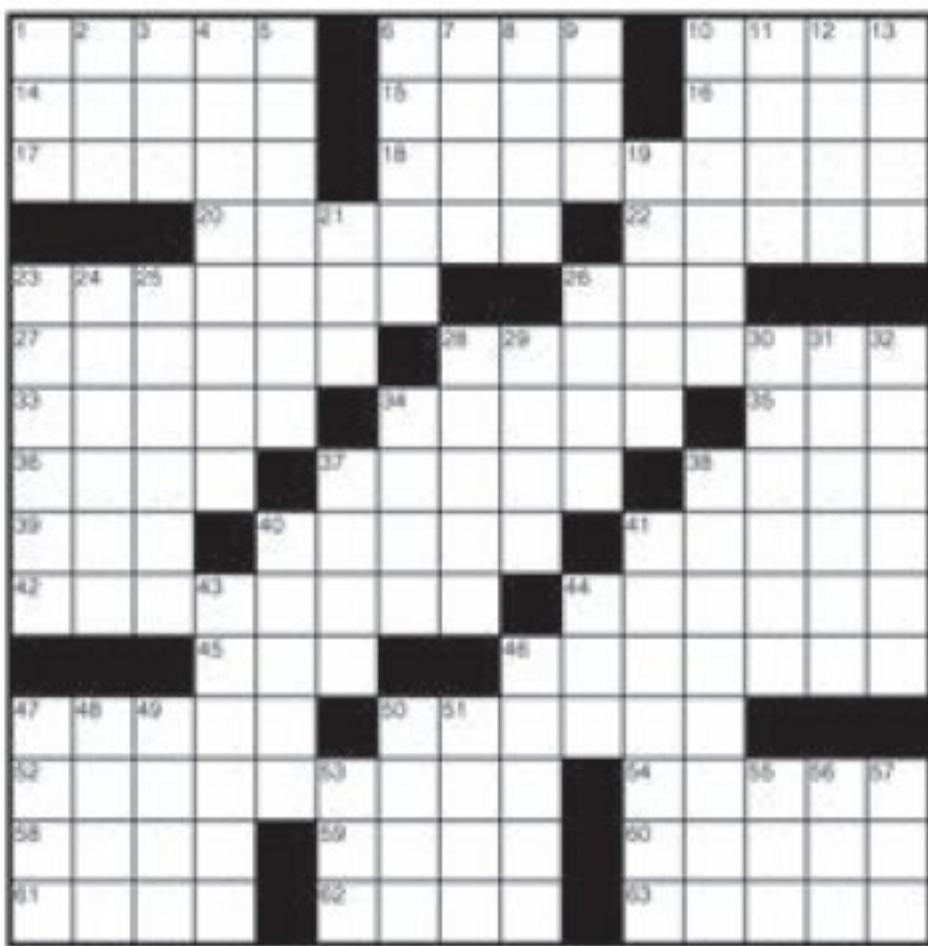
President Obama wants to suspend deportations of undocumented immigrants, which seems a humanitarian thing to do. If he had acted when Democrats controlled both houses of Congress, he could have passed a comprehensive immigration bill then, so the present impasse is his own fault.

**GEORGE CHRISTIAN JR. (NOV. 24)**

**letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

## Crossword



## Across

- 1 Kind of coverage
- 6 Mete out
- 10 Territory
- 14 "Then — will guide the planets ..."
- 15 Deep black
- 16 Statuesque model
- 17 Four-bagger
- 18 Arrow launcher
- 20 Fritters away
- 22 Cast member
- 23 Beethoven pieces
- 26 Sgt.'s status
- 27 Walking on air
- 28 Gazed into the sun
- 33 Bordered
- 34 Frighten
- 35 66, e.g.
- 36 Pole on a ship
- 37 Platter players (hyph.)
- 38 Interval
- 39 Aleta's son
- 40 Like mud on cleats
- 41 Makeshift
- 42 Fuzzier

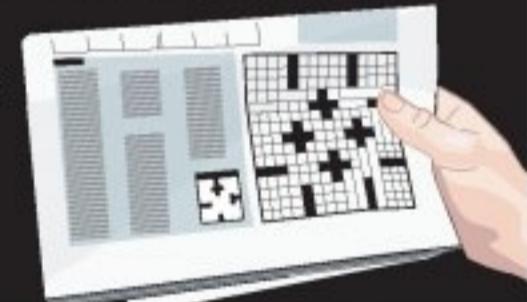
## Down

- 44 Sporty cars
- 45 Hearing aid?
- 46 Most gloomy
- 47 "Mission" starter
- 50 Tiara
- 52 Galvanized
- 54 Veins of ore
- 58 Post-kindergarten
- 59 Livy's year
- 60 Radius companions
- 61 Faint, with "over"
- 62 Latin I verb
- 63 Site
- 7 Clarinet's kin
- 8 Wall Street stats
- 9 Jr. naval officer
- 10 Diamond-like gem
- 11 Jump over
- 12 Billionth, in combos
- 13 Amtrak driver
- 19 Unstated
- 21 Crestfallen
- 23 Vacillate
- 24 Seasoned vet (2 wds.)
- 25 1998 Winter Olympics host
- 26 Cell habitants
- 28 Less risky
- 29 Tobacco chew
- 30 Company
- 31 Chopin wrote dozens
- 32 Loathe
- 34 Netherlands sight
- 37 Kojak's lack
- 38 Arbitrator of fashion
- Beau —
- 40 Join, as hands
- 41 Arises (2 wds.)
- 43 Soup legume

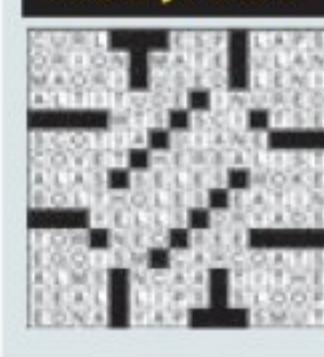


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## Yesterday's answer



- 44 Spanish hero El —
- 46 Willem in "Platoon"
- 47 Journey
- 48 Bylaw
- 49 Queens' — Stadium
- 50 Puts on
- 51 Charged particles
- 53 Funny Charlotte —
- 55 Santa — winds
- 56 Laird's prefix
- 57 Compass pt.

# 3

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NBA power rankings   by James Toscano			
<b>No. 1</b>  <b>Warriors (22-3)</b> Golden State had its 16-game winning streak snapped by the Grizzlies last week, but responded with a win over the Thunder (though Kevin Durant couldn't play in the second half due to injury). The Warriors remain the team to beat in the Western Conference.	<b>No. 2</b>  <b>Grizzlies (21-6)</b> Two straight L's for the Griz after a triple-OT thriller over the Spurs. Zach Randolph's knee injury doesn't appear serious.	<b>No. 5</b>  <b>Rockets (19-7)</b> Four double-doubles in four games for Dwight Howard since he's returned but Houston is just 2-2 in those outings.	<b>No. 8</b>  <b>Spurs (17-11)</b> Four losses in a row for the Spurs. Two triple-OT losses had Pop sitting his main guys against the Mavericks.
<b>No. 3</b>  <b>Blazers (22-6)</b> The Blazers are 3-0 since losing Robin Lopez to a broken hand. But with Lopez out for six weeks, it will catch up to them.	<b>No. 6</b>  <b>Mavs (20-8)</b> The addition of Rondo makes this team a contender. But adding a unique talent like that will take some getting used to.	<b>No. 9</b>  <b>Hawks (19-7)</b> The Hawks have won 12 of their last 13 games, with their only loss coming to Orlando at the buzzer.	<b>No. 11</b>  <b>Suns (15-14)</b> After losing six games in a row, the Suns appear to have righted the ship with three straight wins.
<b>No. 4</b>  <b>Raptors (22-6)</b> The Raptors unveiled a new team logo last week and the basketball-dribbling dinosaur will be no more.	<b>No. 7</b>  <b>Clippers (19-8)</b> It's rare that a team as talented as the Clips goes under the radar like this. Especially in a major market like L.A.	<b>No. 10</b>  <b>Cavs (16-10)</b> Good win for the Cavs over the Zach Randolph-less Grizzlies. Dion Waiters looked tremendous in that one.	<b>No. 12</b>  <b>Wizards (19-7)</b> Paul Pierce is looking for his team to "build on great habits." Washington recently had a six-game win streak snapped.
<b>No. 13</b>  <b>Bulls (17-9)</b> Big win for the Bulls over the Grizzlies Friday, but they've got a tough back-to-back ahead with Toronto and Washington.	<b>No. 14</b>  <b>Thunder (13-15)</b> The Thunder have been rolling since Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook returned, but Durant is now nursing a sprained ankle.	<b>No. 15</b>  <b>Heat (13-15)</b> Tyler Zeller and Luol Deng led their respective teams in scoring Sunday night when the Celtics met the Heat. So much for that rivalry.	<b>No. 16</b>  <b>Pelicans (14-13)</b> If they put every player back in the NBA Draft, I'm fairly confident in saying that Anthony Davis would be the No. 1 overall pick. He's that good.
<b>No. 17</b>  <b>Nuggets (12-15)</b> Ty Lawson is tied for the league lead in assists per game with 10.7. He continues to be one of the more underrated point guards in the NBA.			

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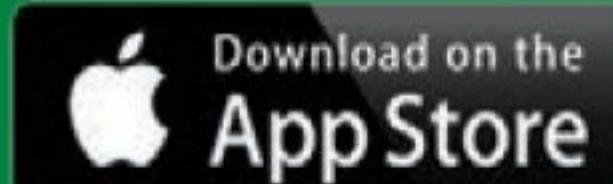
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